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December 31, 2005

Jeff Ottesen  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Statewide Planning Division - Division of Program Development  
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7898

Re: Draft 2006-2008 STIP – Projects on the Cook Inlet to Bristol Bay Corridor.

Dear Jeff:

I am commenting on the draft FFY 2006-2008 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on behalf of Trout Unlimited and Robert Gillam.

I am disappointed to see projects on the Cook Inlet to Bristol Bay Corridor, such as the Williamsport-Pile Bay road projects, the Rushing Creek bridge replacement, Iliamna-Nondalton, remain in the STIP. Each of these projects is a segment of the Cook Inlet to Bristol Bay Corridor and would also serve the proposed Pebble Mine.

Until the litigation against FHWA challenging NEPA compliance of projects on the Cook Inlet to Bristol Bay Corridor is resolved, these projects should be removed from the STIP.

The corridor is a mega-project, not unlike Gravina and Juneau Access, and will also cost about \$300 million. Like other mega-projects, the corridor and the “segments” on it deprive others of more important and more cost-effective projects.

I am certain you know from the on-going litigation my other views about these projects. In comments I submitted today for other clients, I addressed the need for an opportunity for the public and local officials to comment on a statewide basis on all projects in the long-range statewide transportation plan. Trout Unlimited and Mr. Gillam would appreciate that same opportunity.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the STIP.

Sincerely yours,

Geoffrey Y. Parker